

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

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COM/BEWT/OD/ATDOWNEY

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R 210056Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EEW, OTRA, BU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF BULGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF
TRADE

REF: SOFIA 1624

1. PROPOSED VISIT BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
BASHIKAROV TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE WELCOME. PROVIDED A SUIT-
ABLE DATE CAN BE WORKED OUT, COMMERCE OFFICIALS WOULD BE
PLEASED TO MEET WITH MR. BASHIKAROV, HELP ARRANGE HIS SCHE-
DULE IN WASHINGTON, AND PROBABLY SPONSOR A SOCIAL FUNCTION.
SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, ARMITAGE AND/OR OTHER STATE OFFI-
CIALS WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH BASHIKAROV.

2. ONE DIFFICULTY MAY BE TIMING. THE U.S.-POLISH COMMERCIAL
COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MID-SEPTEMBER, AND THE
COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF
THAT MONTH. DAS DOWNEY HOPES TO TRAVEL TO BUCHAREST, BUDA-
PEST, AND MOSCOW AFTER THE COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE,
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AND THUS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEET WITH MR. BASHIKAROV UNTIL
THE LATTER HALF OF OCTOBER.

3. EMBASSY MAY CONVEY OUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE MR.
BASHIKAROV AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIMING
CAN BE ARRANGED. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY ENCOURAGE

THE BULGARIANS TO PLAN THIS TRIP THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON. BULGARIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON
SHOULD CONTACT USDOC TO COORDINATE SCHEDULE. ALSO, TO
AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING, USDOC WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY MAKING CLEAR USDOC'S PERCEPTION THAT,
IN VIEW OF "PRIVATE NON-OFFICIAL" NATURE OF VISIT,
USDOC WOULD NOT FUND ANY PORTION OF THE TRIP, EXCEPT A
POSSIBLE SOCIAL FUNCTION. KISSINGER

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